

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Art Unit:
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Hikaru TAKAKURA et al) Examiner:
)
Appln. No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED) Washington, D.C.
)
Filed: April 2001) April 24, 2001
)
For: U.S. (INSTABLE PROTEASE)) Docket No.: TAKAKURA=1A
G)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

contemporaneous with the filing of this case and prior to calculation of a filing fee and examination on the merits, kindly do as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

✓ 1, after the title, insert as new lines

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

is is a divisional of application no. 08/894,818, filed A. c 29, 1997, which is a 371 national stage application of PCT/US96/13253, filed November 7, 1996, the entire contents of both applications being incorporated herein by reference.--

Pages 8-9, please replace the last paragraph beginning at line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Furthermore, the present inventors prepared a hybrid gene encoding a hybrid protease, i.e., a fusion protein from both proteases, and confirmed that an enzyme expressed by hybrid gene showed the protease activity at high temperature like the above hyperthermostable protease.--

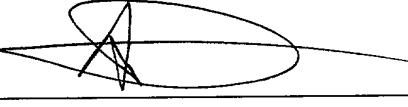
REMARKS

The amendments are being made to provide consistency with the amendments to the specification of the parent application. In addition, a Cross-Reference to Related Application section is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN THE SPECIFICATION"

Pages 8-9, please replace the last paragraph beginning at line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Furthermore, the present inventors ~~made prepared~~ a ~~hybrid~~ gene encoding a hybrid protease, ~~which was a chimera i.e. a~~ ~~fusion~~ protein from both proteases, and confirmed that an enzyme expressed by ~~the hybrid~~ gene showed the protease activity ~~under at~~ ~~high temperature conditions as like~~ the above hyperthermostable protease which resulted in the completion of the present invention.--